

CIA Control Sparks Angry Senate Debate

By Bryce Nelson

Washington Post Staff Writer

For the first time in a decade a full-scale Senate debate erupted yesterday on whether to tighten congressional controls over the super-secret operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Sen. Richard Russell (D-Ga.) took the floor to denounce as "sheer poppycock" charges by CIA critics in the Senate that the intelligence agency is influencing foreign policy.

He also denounced what he described as an effort by the Senate Foreign Relations at "muscling in" on the business of keeping a watch over the CIA on Capitol Hill.

Russell was protesting a resolution sponsored by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.) that would create a nine-man Senate "Committee on Intelligence Operations" by adding three Foreign Relations Committee members to the group from the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees that currently supervise the CIA. Russell, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, serves as Chairman of the special CIA subcommittee.

Last Thursday, the McCarthy resolution survived a tabling motion in the Foreign Relations Committee by a vote of 11-6. The final vote on the proposal was deferred until today.

Russell and the other members of his CIA subcommittee have previously been very reluctant to subject the agency to public debate. In his speech yesterday, Russell said such debate would hurt the "sources of information that are available to the CIA."

"Even the fact that the subject is discussed on the floor of the Senate has a tendency to chill these informers," Russell argued. "Some of the informers might be in the city of Washington. The very discussion of the subject might cause them to close up like a clam for fear that something might happen that would cause a leak that would identify them and cause them to lose their positions, or, worse than that, to lose their lives."

Russell indicated that he was also worried that FBI ac-

tivities would be compromised. The proposed "Committee on Intelligence Operations" would also watch over the foreign operations of the FBI, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the State Department.

In his attack on the McCarthy proposal, Russell was joined by four of his CIA subcommittee members: Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.), Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.), Sen. Milton R. Young (R-N.D.) and Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.). The other two CIA subcommittee members, Appropriations Committee Chairman Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.) and Sen. Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine), were not present.

Replying to the charges by Russell and his colleagues,

See CIA, A8, Col. 4

Michigan State denies any proof exists that it had Vietnam spy role. Page A 8

Foreign Relations Chairman J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) called the McCarthy resolution "the most moderate proposal" for supervising the CIA "that has been made to Congress in recent years."

Fulbright indicated that part of his concern arose from CIA director William F. Raborn's refusal to answer questions on some matters when he appeared before the Foreign Relations Committee in January.

Fulbright said that Raborn "takes the position that he is not authorized under existing regulations or laws to answer questions to the Committee on Foreign Relations other than very superficial ones."

Fulbright added that Raborn had said he would provide that information to the Congressional CIA subcommittee or to the President's private citizens committee on foreign intelligence.

Sen. Albert B. Gore (D-Tenn.) corroborated Fulbright's statement that Raborn had refused to give requested information to the Foreign Relations Committee. Gore was joined yesterday by McCarthy, Sen. Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska) and Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) in supporting the addition of Foreign Relations Committee members to the Senate CIA group.

Several of these Senators

disputed Russell's contention that "it is sheer poppycock to say the CIA makes foreign

Fulbright said the CIA representatives in many countries were "better financed and have more influence than our ambassadors . . . The fact is that they dominate the policy in a particular country."

Fulbright also said he was concerned by two recent instances concerning the CIA—the publication by CIA official George Carver of an article on the Vietcong in Foreign Affairs quarterly and CIA involvement in the Michigan State University project in South Vietnam during the late 1950s.

Russell argued that Armed Services Committee had had jurisdiction over the CIA since its founding in 1947. In addition, he said, CIA appropriations "are hidden in various other appropriations contained in the Department of Defense appropriations bill, which the Armed Services Committee handles."

Stennis vigorously backed Russell's arguments, saying that the present Russell subcommittee was "the very finest arrangement that the Senate has anywhere for handling a serious, delicate and highly important matter."

Symington disputed Ful-

bright's point that the CIA influenced U.S. foreign policy. In his tours of the world, Symington noted, he had found no ambassador who "said that the CIA was creating a policy."